



# THE TOKEN HUNTER

A Publication of the

*National Utah Token Society*

Vol. 10, No. 3

MARCH 1991



Dedicated to Collecting, Recording, and Preserving Medals and Tokens

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## NEXT MEETING

**MARCH**

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					60	61
					1	2
62	63	64	65	66	67	68
3	4	5	6	\$ 8	9	
69	70	71	72	73	74	75
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
76	77	78	79	80	81	82
17	18	19	20	\$ 22	23	
83	84	85	86	87	88	89
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
90	91					
31						

Mar. 28 Bourse Nite

The National Utah Token Society (NUTS) meets at the Redwood Multipurpose Center, 3100 South Redwood Road, SLC, UT, on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday at 7:15p.m.

**DUES**

This is your last TOKEN HUNTER if you haven't paid your dues for this year.

**DUES**

## ★ PRIZES ★

Door prize: YELLOWSTONE SPECIALITY CO. 5.00

Drawing prizes: HELPER CLUB GF 1.00 IT

MECCA BAR SCHOFIELD UTAH GF 5¢ IT

MORONI CO-OP GF 25¢ IN MDSE

EUREKA MEAT & PRODUCE GF 5¢ IN MDSE

THE CENTER PARK CITY GF 5¢ IT

NEPHI MERCANTILE GF 1.00 IN MDSE

1/20<sup>th</sup> oz. SOUTH DAKOTA BUFFALO GOLD

2-ONE OUNCE INDIAN HEAD LIBERTY ROUNDS

SILVER STAR MINING STOCK CERT. PARK CITY

PROMOTIONAL GAMING TOKEN STATELINE CASINO



# FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear NUTS members,

Our last meeting was a big success! I haven't seen that many people since the Christmas party. I would like to thank Boyd Jolley for his interesting talk last month. I hope everyone enjoyed it as much as I did. Congratulations are in order to Julie Gold for the winning medal. Winter Quarters has always been a favorite town with a colorful yet tragic history. This early coal-mining camp experienced one of the worst mining disasters in the history of the country. In 1900 during an intense mine explosion, 199 men lost their lives.

We are having a bourse meeting this month. The Webster dictionary defines bourse (boor-s) as a purse, or an exchange. It is derived from the latin word bursa. Hopefully we will have a successful exchange, and everyone receives the purse most desirably to them.

On a sad note I would like to acknowledge that Margaret Nelsen and David Freed are both suffering from cancer. These two members are avid tokens collectors, and we wish them the best hope. They are surely included in our prayers.

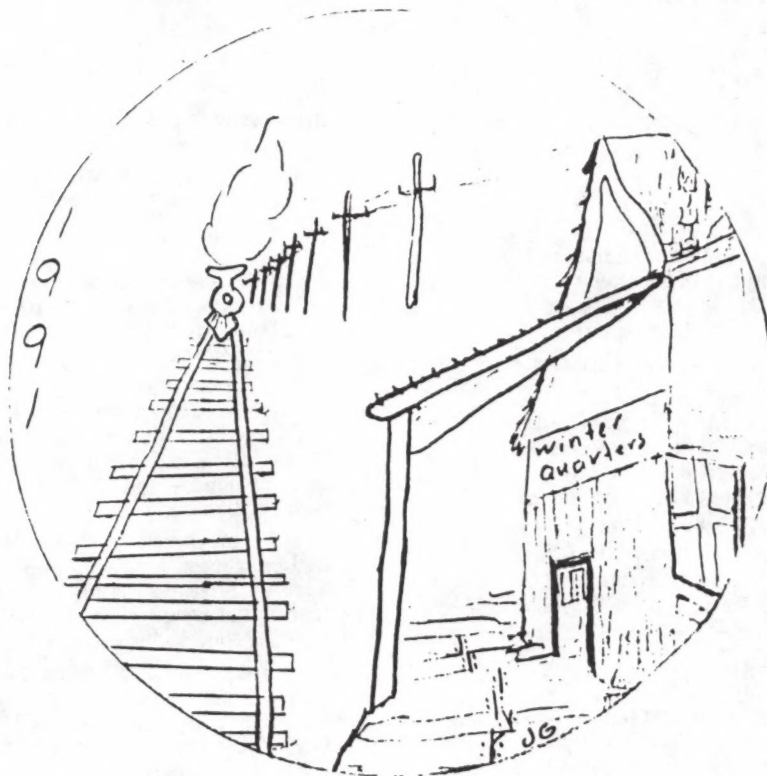
Spring is upon us and tis the season for digging. I met with the wagon masters, and discussed some possible sites this year. We need to talk about our outings in more detail this month. I would appreciate input from everyone. I spoke with Mel (he's the one who mentioned a dig at the Mountains meadows massacre site), and he still thinks the weekend after Easter will work out. He told me he is having trouble securing permission from one landowner. Mel will keep us informed.

Well I will see you all at the next meeting, until then happy hunting

Sincerely, *Curj Benke*



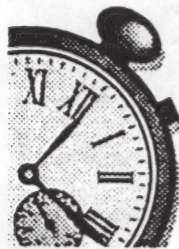
Congratulations to Julie Gold for her 1991 medal design. The Winter Quarters scene was selected from those submitted for this years medal.



George Wood of Pocatello, Idaho reports that he has a couple of WW I tokens. Both have P. of W. TOKEN B. E. P. on one side. One has 50 CTS on one side and the other has 1 FR. on it. The abbreviations stand for Prisoner of War British Expeditionary Force.

**Old West:** Though rancher's empire stretched from Grand Canyon to Book Cliffs, story is little known.

**By Jerry Spangler**  
Deseret News staff writer



**THEN  
AND NOW**

But during the 1880s and 1890s, those same canyons that offered haven to outlaws were also prime rangelands for tens of thousands of cattle — all part of a flourishing

Names like "Robber's Roost" and "Brown's Park" and the "San Rafael Swell" are synonymous with the most infamous outlaws the West has ever known.

Western tradition of open-range cattle ranching that still exists today.

In those days, however, when outlaws were not out robbing payrolls, they were often out rustling cattle. And the sheer nature of the landscape made the rustling virtually impossible to stop.

One Utah rancher decided to try a different approach to his cattle-rustling problem. "Nutter found it more practical to hire outlaws to work as cowhands at one time or another during their cooling-off periods. Most of them were cowboys at one time or another and made top hands, but what was more important, their code prevented them from rustling from an employer," wrote Virginia Price, Preston Nutter's daughter.



**Preston Nutter**

It was Nutter's uncanny ability to blend shrewd negotiation with iron-fisted determination that turned an otherwise un-noteworthy gold prospector into one of the richest and most politically influential cattle barons in Utah history.

In time, Nutter would become one of Utah's most powerful businessmen and one of the largest cattle barons anywhere in the Old West. Even with a cattle empire stretching from the Grand Canyon to the Book Cliffs, Nutter's story remains virtually unknown.

"He is a very much overlooked figure in Utah history," said Roy Webb, assistant manuscripts curator in Special Collections at the University of Utah's Marriott Library.



# Shrewdness, determination paid off for cattle baron

"He was much bigger than the more famous ones in Wyoming or Texas. But he tended to operate behind the scenes. He kept his accounts in his head and he kept it all to himself. It wasn't anybody else's business but his."

Conservative estimates place his cattle herds at between 25,000 and 30,000 head.

The story of Preston Nutter is one of famous outlaws, renegade Indians and range wars with sheep ranchers. Many Nutter stories are undoubtedly myths. Many others were recounted by his daughter in the Summer 1964 Utah Historical Quarterly prior to her death.

Currently, there is an ongoing attempt by Carbon County and Brigham Young University to document the actual historical ranching sites throughout Nine Mile Canyon, where Nutter's empire had its headquarters after 1902.

"To appreciate the whole history of Nine Mile Canyon or the history of cattle ranching in Utah, you have to look first at Preston Nutter," said Pam Miller, an archaeologist for the College of Eastern Utah's Prehistoric Museum in Price.

Attempts to piece together Nutter's role in the history of southern Utah are difficult. The native Virginian avoided publicity and was anything but flamboyant. And fires in 1936 and again about 20 years later destroyed many of Nutter's personal papers.

But the legend lives on. Nutter claimed never to have worn cowboy boots and always rode a mule — something he could do for days on end without food or sleep. He had a reputation for driving his men hard and his enemies harder.

During one encounter with sheepherders — who in those days traditionally roamed the state without respect to who owned grazing leases — the shepherd told Nutter, "They tell me I be all right if I don't run into old man Nutter."

"They told you right," Nutter said.

Because of his tremendous wealth, Nutter often found it easier to buy out troublesome competitors. Nutter's cattle operation would eventually encompass the entire "Arizona Strip" area, the entire summer range around Strawberry Reservoir, the rugged West Tavaputs Plateau and the Book Cliffs area near Price.

By 1900, he owned at least 25,000 head of cattle — one out of every 10 cows in the entire state. In one cattle drive

alone, Nutter pushed 5,000 head of cows north across the Colorado River.

While no animals were killed in the crossing, "it is possible we lost a few spectators lined up to watch from the banks," Nutter said. "I was too busy to keep an eye on them."

Nutter rose from a one-time prospector to operating a small freight company to cattle ranching on a relatively small scale. In the process, he learned some shrewd business maneuvers.

In the mid-1880s, a winter dubbed the "Great Cattle Extinction" descended on Utah and Colorado — snows so deep and winds so cold that cattle began dying by the thousands. Hundreds of operators went out of business, and cowboys — with no work to be found — often became outlaws.

But Nutter had predicted the disastrous winter and had purchased leases around the railroad at Thompson Springs in Grand County. When grass became non-existent on the range, Nutter survived by using the railroad to bring food to his cattle.

"It got so bad that ranchers started selling their cattle to Nutter for 10 cents on the head," Webb said. "He was a bull in a bear market. And that's what got his herd started and put his competitors out of business."

Webb, who studied Nutter's papers for two years, said Nutter had a tendency to step on people who got in his way, but he always did it within the law. "The image of a ruthless cattle baron with a six shooter and cowboy boots just didn't apply to him," he said. "Nutter used lawyers instead."

And he was not above using politics to further his agenda. In the 1890s, when anti-Mormon sentiments were at a fever pitch, Nutter filed claims on all of the water holes along the "Arizona Strip" in southwestern Utah.

Mormon ranchers had been using the range for 50 years but had never filed claims with the federal government. Nutter filed the claims and subsequently controlled an area there larger than all of New England. When Mormon ranchers protested, the courts sided with Nutter.

"He was shrewd," Webb said. "If he wanted some land or cattle, he would get it. Certainly not by foul means but by using his head."

At times, Nutter was the largest cattle baron in Utah, competing with other cattle companies in southeastern Utah and the LDS Church's Deseret Land and Livestock.

After his death in 1936 at age 86, the Nutter Ranch was operated by his daughters. It was sold several years ago to an oil company and is currently being leased to a local rancher.



## OLD NEWS IS GOOD NEWS

By Bill Brown

The cold winter months are an excellent opportunity to research potential new treasure sites. Recently, with this in mind, I made my first trip to the Salt Lake City Library to study the old newspapers on microfilm. I was amazed by the quantity of fascinating information and treasure leads a period of only ten days in 1909 generated.

One of the more valuable features of this information is that it is accurately dated. This is very helpful. For example, you have set the goal of finding pre-1900 coins and jewelry. One has only to examine pre-1900 newspapers to find good potential sites.

The locations of places and events are often quite specific. There are many advertisements for saloons, hotels, boarding houses, and other businesses. Then as now, these ads contained each establishment's address. These street addresses may still be valid or can be located from old city maps.

There are several regular columns that are loaded with great information. There is a police column which has news of local criminal activities, including fights in saloons, robberies, etc. The location and details of the events are described and provide many significant clues to help locate new places to treasure hunt. Another column is solely devoted to local mining news and interests, while still another tells of railroad plans and activities.

Many articles describe local happenings and interests. Sporting events are written about as are other recreational pursuits and interests. For example, during the ten days in 1909 I scrutinized, I came across a large article describing improvements for four popular resorts for the upcoming season. The article relates the plans and costs of improvements at the resorts. It also writes at length of each resort's attractions.

As you can see, the old newspapers provide an endless supply of captivating leads to treasure. For the benefit of the pessimist who feels there is no treasure out there to be found, I will conclude with a sample of perhaps the most astounding column of all, advertisements from the classified ads "Lost" column for ten days in 1909.



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LOST

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LOST--IN VICINITY OF LIBERTY  
park, an aligator purse,  
containing \$5 in gold and a  
pair of spectacles. Finder  
may keep the money if  
pocketbook and glasses are  
returned to Mrs. Sipe, White-  
hall apartments. o3248

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A NICKLE-PLATED INGERSOLL  
watch with chain and coin  
charm. Return to 312  
McCornick Blk. Reward.  
o2304

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GOLD BRACELET, 9-K: HAS  
first name on inside.  
Return to Tribune. Reward.  
o658

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LOST ON 6th EAST, BETWEEN 4TH  
and 3rd South: lady's gold  
watch and chain. Return to  
430 So. 6th East. Reward.  
o2702

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AN OVAL, LOCKET AND CHAIN, BE-  
tween 3rd East and Bungalow  
theater. Return to 237 So.  
3rd E. o2805

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PURSE CONTAINING MONEY AND A  
diamond ring set with 3  
diamonds. Please return to  
108 West 2nd So., and keep  
money. o1699

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A SMALL PURSE CONTAINING \$23,  
two keys. Finder please  
return Tribune. Reward.  
Lost bet. State and Main on  
1st South. o1856

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BET. 6TH EAST AND 4TH SO. AND  
Bungalow theater, gold bar  
pin, set with sapphires.  
Return to 210 Main St.  
Reward. o2610

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A PURSE CONTAINING \$5.20. ON  
Wandamere car or on 5th  
East. Finder please return  
to Miss Wisner, 232 E. 8th  
South. o1864

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LOST, ON 6TH EAST, BETWEEN  
4th and 5th South, lady's  
gold watch and chain.  
Return to 450 So. 6th East.  
Reward. o3720

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## H E R E A N D T H E R E

I am pleased to relay to the rest of you NUTS that one of our most supportive members, BOB HARRIS recently took wedding vows. We wish them the best of luck and happiness, and we look forward to having Mr. and Mrs. Harris join us after their honeymoon. (By the way Bob, this means you will have the privilege of getting a family membership next year!!!!)

I had the pleasure of having a very interesting discussion with HAROLD and LINDA FRANKE, and MARK HUMPHRYS at the last meeting. Harold recently dug up a silver dollar (what's keeping you from finding yours JoAnn?) at a demolished school. It may not be a token, but having had the pleasure of digging up 3 cartwheels myself, it is very exciting and a memorable experience. Congratulations Harold!!!!

Mark says he is having a little trouble tuning his 300. Anyone out there familiar with this machine???? If so I'm sure Mark would appreciate any help and tidbits of knowledge.

Many of our members were seen at the recent Coin Show. Tokens seemed to be very popular, and I counted at least 6 dealers that had at least a few tokens.

RANDY MEISER has been at it again!!! He related at the last meeting that he had found between 16-18 Mercury dimes in the last two weeks and a token (was it the Foston Hotel??- there are 2 signs of getting old:: Forgetfulness is one, and I can't remember the second one!!!). Anyway, good show Randy.

I understand that HARRY CAMPBELL opened up a new shop out in Midvale. He has added TV repair to the cases of tokens and collectibles he had at his previous shop. Congratulations!

I recently spent a couple of very enjoyable hours conversing with the DEAN OF UTAH TOKEN COLLECTORS, DAVID FREED. His traders would make most of our collections seem small.

As most of you know David specializes in collecting "towns". In discussing the various towns in Utah, it is surprising just how few Dave is lacking. For instance, he told me that this past year he has picked up tokens from Alta, Rockville, and Indianola. Do you have any of these in your collection. Thanks David for an enjoyable discussion!!!!

The GARRETTS, DOUG, BETH, and BRUCE, have been at it again! I understand that Doug recently dug up a silver dollar (do you hear JoAnn????), an early 50 cent piece and an 1850 dime. I also heard all that Bruce could dig up that day were some old "V" nickles. You guys really set the pace!!!!

The CAPSONS, DAVE and ROSALIE, had a very successful deer hunt, in spite of Dave getting a case of "buck fever". He tells me they set 4 deer for 4 permits, and still able to get back to work for Monday morning. Do you need some partners next year?



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### **EXHIBIT HALL B**

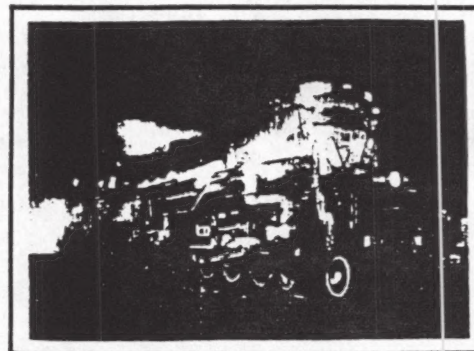
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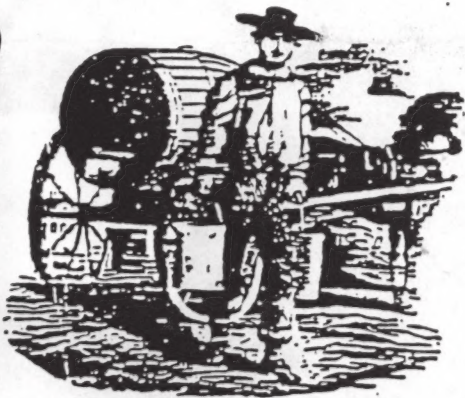
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